NEWS From:
Congressman Mike Honda
FIFTEENTH DISTRICT - CALIFORNIA

For Immediate Release   Contact: Ernest Baynard
October 17, 2001   (202) 225-2631

Honda Brings High-Tech, Congress Together to Forge Technology-Driven Solutions to Aviation Security Needs

Washington, D.C.-- U.S. Congressmen, Mike Honda (D-CA) and Jim Matheson (D-UT) hosted a policy forum with the Progressive Policy Institute (PPI) to help ensure that cutting-edge technology companies are employed in meeting our new national aviation security needs. Honda, a member of the House Aviation subcommittee, invited a number of high-tech companies from his Silicon Valley District to demonstrate for lawmakers how the latest technologies can dramatically improve aviation security in a short timeframe. After brief presentations by leading information technology companies (list attached) Members of Congress and staff participated in product demonstrations of various security enhancing technologies.

"I believe that high-tech companies must work directly with Congress and the federal agencies to reshape and enhance security in our airports and other public places," said Honda. **"By educating Members of Congress on cutting-edge applications like biometrics and other new technologies we can create a safer, more efficient airport security system that will ease current burdens on commerce and air travel while revitalizing the technology sector of our economy."**

"Vocent is grateful to Congressman Honda for making sure technology companies play a central role in the debate on Capitol Hill about the future of aviation security," said Chuck Buffum, CEO of Vocent Solutions, Inc. of Silicon Valley. **"By being allowed to showcase our technology at forums like these we can continue to educate key decision makers in Congress about voiceprint authentication- a unique technology that can be put into place very quickly to improve security without compromising convenience, safety or efficiency."**

"In the last decade the information technology revolution spread to all parts of society, the Internet, E-commerce, and as we so vividly see today, even weaponry," said Progressive Policy Institute's Vice President Rob Atkinson. **"It's time to apply advanced technologies to enhance aviation security."**

Honda and Matheson have recently sponsored legislation that would establish a pilot program to test and evaluate new and emerging aviation security technologies, including biometrics and other advanced technologies. Biometric technology, which is used to identify and authenticate an individual's identity based on unique physiological data such as fingerprints and retinas, remains one of the most promising new ways to improve security at airports.

-30-